

Amendment to the Claims

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~providing trophic support for supporting the growth and/or survival of precursor cells of the nervous system ex vivo, said method comprising removing said cells from administering to neuronal cells from a patient suffering from a condition capable of treatment with a neurotrophic factor, administering to said cells from said patient a composition comprising an isolated polypeptide consisting of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:4, and transplanting or engrafting said cells to said patient.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the patient suffers from a condition selected from the group consisting of ~~peripheral neuropathy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and, Huntington's disease, ischemic stroke, brain injury, acute spinal cord injury, nervous system tumors, multiple sclerosis, infection, dementia, epilepsy, and peripheral nerve injury.~~

25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is Parkinson's disease.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is Alzheimer's disease.

27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is stroke.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is brain injury.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the condition is spinal cord injury.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of increasing the number of mammalian neuronal progenitor cells *in vitro*, said method comprising obtaining hippocampal cells from a mammalian brain and growing said cells in the presence of FGF 98 at a concentration and for a time that results in an increase in neuronal precursor cells compared to mammalian neuronal progenitor cells grown in the absence of FGF 98.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein said concentration is 200 ng/ml.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein said time is 6 days.

33. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide is FGF 98.

34. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

35. (New) A method for treating Parkinson's disease, said method comprising administration to a human patient in need of said treatment a composition comprising a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:4.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said polypeptide is FGF 98.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.